

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Amy C. Tolcin, Zinc Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-4940, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: atolcin@usgs.gov

Pamela A. Wiser (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7956
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: pwiser@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

ZINC IN NOVEMBER 2010

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in November 2010 was 50,000 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in November was 1,670 t, 22% lower than that in October 2010 but slightly higher than that in November 2009.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for November 2010 was 108.95 cents per pound, 3% lower than the October 2010 average price

but 7% higher than the November 2009 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for November 2010 increased to \$2,291.14 per metric ton, 3% lower than the average price in October 2010 but a 5% increase compared with the average price in November 2009. During November 2010, global LME stocks of SHG zinc increased by 3,425 t to 631,425 t.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2009	2010		
	January- December	October	November	January- November
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ²	736,000	68,300	51,800	685,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ²	710,000	66,000	50,000	662,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^{e, 3}	203,000	20,800	20,800	228,000
Consumption of refined zinc:				
Apparent ⁴	891,000	73,200	76,000	843,000
Reported	306,000	14,900	14,000	200,000
Reported stocks of refined zinc, end of period, producer and consumer ⁵	XX	25,100	26,600	XX
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	1	--	--	--
Imports for consumption:				
Refined zinc	686,000	52,700	57,200	618,000
Oxide (gross weight)	69,200	9,750	8,510	86,700
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	74,200	3,030	--	23,400
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	9,100	1,320	1,310	13,600
Exports:				
Refined zinc	2,960	293	477	4,030
Oxide (gross weight)	17,300	1,140	2,510	14,600
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	785,000	170,000	13,500	732,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	47,100	6,980	7,920	68,500
Price:⁶				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	1,654.69	2,371.79	2,291.14	2,149.41
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	77.91	112.35	108.95	101.39

⁶Estimated. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; except prices; may not add to totals shown.

²Reported zinc content in both zinc and lead concentrates.

³Includes zinc metal used to manufacture zinc oxide.

⁴Smelter production plus imports minus exports plus shipments from Government stockpile plus stock change.

⁵Does not include an estimate for companies that report annually.

⁶Special High Grade Zinc.

TABLE 2
MINE PRODUCTION OF ZINC IN THE UNITED STATES^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Period	Zinc content	Recoverable
2009:		
November	51,700	49,900
December	64,300	62,100
January-December	736,000	710,000
2010:		
January	61,500	59,400
February	58,100	56,100
March	65,300	63,100
April	63,600	61,400
May	64,800	62,600
June	59,400	57,400
July	67,500	65,200
August	62,700	60,600
September	62,100	60,000
October	68,300	66,000
November	51,800	50,000
January-November	685,000	662,000

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes the zinc content in both lead and zinc concentrates.

TABLE 3
APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF REFINED ZINC ACCORDING
TO INDUSTRY USE AND PRODUCT¹

(Metric tons)

	2009	2010		
	January- December	October	November	January- November
Galvanizing:				
Sheet and strip	402,000	30,800	33,200	377,000
Other	152,000	12,400	13,200	137,000
Total	554,000	43,300	46,300	515,000
Brass and bronze	153,000	12,900	12,500	145,000
Zinc-base alloy	134,000	11,900	12,400	129,000
Other uses ²	49,600	5,180	4,680	54,000
Grand total	891,000	73,200	76,000	843,000

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes zinc used in making zinc dust, desilvering lead, powder, alloys, anodes, chemicals, casting, light metal alloys, rolled zinc, and miscellaneous uses not elsewhere specified.

TABLE 4
SHIPMENTS OF ZINC METAL FROM THE NATIONAL
DEFENSE STOCKPILE¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Shipments	Ending inventory ²
2009:		
November	--	7,490
December	--	7,490
January-December	1	XX
2010:		
January	--	7,490
February	--	7,490
March	--	7,490
April	--	7,490
May	--	7,490
June	--	7,490
July	--	7,490
August	--	7,490
September	--	7,490
October	--	7,490
November	--	7,490
January-November	--	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes only uncommitted inventory.

Source: DLA Strategic Materials.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2009		2010			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	November		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	74,200	\$68,200	--	--	23,400	\$31,100
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	686,000	1,080,000	57,200	\$124,000	618,000	1,330,000
Zinc alloys	4,900	8,980	601	1,420	6,690	14,600
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	1,900	4,730	174	560	2,420	7,060
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,010	13,500	268	1,140	3,230	14,400
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	8,610	7,760	704	798	16,700	17,500
Powders, flakes, dust	20,400	44,300	3,340	9,830	28,500	79,700
Waste and scrap	9,100	8,800	1,310	1,640	13,600	16,600
Chemicals:						
Oxide	69,200	98,500	8,510	18,300	86,700	169,000
Chloride	249	964	23	61	344	1,200
Sulfate	31,700	23,000	3,320	2,980	33,700	28,800
Compounds, other ²	3,160	4,610	254	656	3,750	6,530

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Includes zinc sulfide (HTS 2830.90.1000 and 2830.90.1500), chromates of zinc or of lead (HTS 2841.90.4500), and lithopone and other pigments and preparations based on zinc sulfide (HTS 3206.42.0000).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS OF ZINC, BY TYPE OF MATERIAL AND COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material and country	General imports			Imports for consumption		
	2009	2010		2009	2010	
		November	Year to date		November	Year to date
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Canada	1,550	--	--	1,550	--	--
Ireland	11,600	--	--	11,600	--	--
Mexico	5,410	--	20	5,410	--	20
Netherlands	--	--	89	--	--	89
Peru	55,600	--	23,300	55,600	--	23,300
Total	74,200	--	23,400	74,200	--	23,400
Refined (slab) zinc:						
Brazil	2,060	--	3,010	2,060	--	3,010
Canada	551,000	30,700	461,000	551,000	30,700	461,000
China	318	--	25	318	--	61
Japan	696	297	3,500	696	297	3,500
Kazakhstan	493	--	1,000	493	--	1,000
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	32	--	310
Mexico	85,600	4,060	73,100	85,600	4,060	73,100
Peru	44,800	3,040	23,800	45,000	3,040	27,000
Russia	--	3,010	4,740	--	3,010	4,740
South Africa	897	--	508	897	--	508
Spain	--	--	47	--	16,100	43,600
Other	9	3	57	9	3	104
Total	686,000	41,100	570,000	686,000	57,200	618,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	8,610	704	16,700	8,610	704	16,700
Grand total	769,000	41,800	611,000	769,000	57,900	658,000
Oxide:						
Argentina	--	--	384	--	--	384
Australia	384	17	173	384	17	173
Belgium	857	14	241	857	14	241
Brazil	--	--	322	--	--	322
Canada	33,500	4,410	47,000	33,500	4,410	47,000
China	379	93	1,560	379	93	1,560
Germany	344	68	764	344	68	764
Italy	2,110	4	92	2,110	4	92
Japan	1,520	116	2,490	1,520	116	2,490
Mexico	24,400	2,820	25,500	24,400	2,820	25,500
Netherlands	3,890	376	5,220	3,890	376	5,220
Norway	1,110	--	1	1,110	--	1
Peru	199	418	1,710	199	418	1,710
Spain	487	153	670	487	153	670
Turkey	80	20	250	80	20	250
United Kingdom	62	--	121	62	--	121
Other	2	--	232	2	--	232
Total	69,200	8,510	86,700	69,200	8,510	86,700

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2009		2010			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	November		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	785,000	\$656,000	13,500	\$7,230	732,000	\$889,000
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	2,960	3,070	477	488	4,030	4,150
Zinc alloys	6,280	14,300	1,170	3,230	10,500	26,800
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	16,600	28,500	3,220	6,410	24,700	46,900
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	6,160	17,700	443	1,350	6,970	20,500
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	13,500	11,000	1,230	1,180	12,700	9,970
Powders, flakes, dust	12,100	24,800	1,080	2,420	13,500	30,100
Waste and scrap	47,100	54,300	7,920	7,850	68,500	75,500
Chemicals:						
Oxide	17,300	31,100	2,510	3,610	14,600	33,300
Chloride	1,800	2,750	142	227	1,800	2,710
Sulfate	1,030	1,610	12	9	1,790	2,200
Compounds, other ²	5,240	12,000	489	679	5,830	10,900

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Includes zinc sulfide (Schedule B 2830.90.1000 and 2830.90.1500), chromates of zinc or of lead (Schedule B 2841.90.4500), and lithopone and other pigments and preparations based on zinc sulfide (Schedule B 3206.42.0000).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8
AVERAGE PRICES FOR SPECIAL HIGH GRADE ZINC

Period	North	London Metal Exchange	
	American ¹	cash ²	
	¢/lb.	¢/lb.	\$/t
2009:			
November	102.34	99.47	2,193.02
December	110.62	107.75	2,375.49
January-December	77.91	75.06	1,654.69
2010:			
January	113.28	110.41	2,434.11
February	100.69	97.82	2,156.49
March	106.07	103.18	2,274.73
April	110.48	107.34	2,366.34
May	92.82	89.26	1,967.90
June	83.09	79.04	1,742.47
July	87.89	83.61	1,843.39
August	97.37	92.72	2,044.12
September	102.34	97.57	2,151.00
October	112.35	107.58	2,371.79
November	108.95	103.92	2,291.14
January-November	101.39	97.50	2,149.41

¹Platts Metals Week North American price. Based on the London Metal Exchange cash price plus premiums or discounts, depending on market conditions.

²Average of the cash buyer price and the cash seller and settlement price.

Source: Platts Metals Week.